



MA

English Literature

Study mode

Full-time

Part-time

Duration

12 months

24 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

Studying for an English Literature MA at Liverpool allows you to advance your literary scholarship and pursue areas of interest across a wide variety of genres and historical periods.

Introduction

You will have the opportunity to study a wide range of literary disciplines, genres and themes. Our general pathway offers a flexible and bespoke route of study, allowing you to take modules from across our specialist routes in:

- [Modern and Contemporary Literature](#)
- [Renaissance and Eighteenth-Century Literature](#)
- [Science Fiction](#)
- [Victorian Literature](#)

We look to equip our students with the knowledge and confidence to reflect critically and creatively on the practices, contexts and real-world applications of literary study.

You'll acquire the necessary research skills to make effective, critical interventions in the study of English Literature. You will be able to participate in our lively research culture

through attending regular seminars and lectures by guest speakers, as well as our own staff and students.

You will be encouraged to take a global perspective on changing literary, cultural and political landscapes, and invited to explore current critical and theoretical debates.

You'll be taught by staff including award-winning writers and BBC 'New Generation Thinkers', who are experts in their respective fields. We are ranked in the world Top 100 for English (QS World University Rankings 2025).

English Literature students graduate with sought-after skills that apply to a wide range of careers, and a significant number of MA graduates also continue their studies to PhD level.

Who is this course for?

This master's is suitable for English Literature graduates who want to explore this subject further across a number of literary time periods.

What you'll learn

- Detailed literary knowledge across a variety of genres
- Effective and critical research skills
- How to present and communicate clearly for advanced study
- Textual analysis from multiple perspectives
- How to debate, argue and persuade
- Continued independent learning and critical thinking

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

Amongst your optional modules, you must take at least two of the following Core modules: **ENGL750, ENGL752, ENGL760, ENGL762, ENGL770, ENGL772, ENGL780, ENGL78**).

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
RESEARCH SKILLS AND PRACTICE (ENGL700)	15

Optional modules	Credits
VICTORIAN MURDER AND OTHER CRIMES (ENGL763)	15
SCIENCE FICTION AND/AS THE ARCHIVE (ENGL781)	15
VICTORIAN APOCALYPSE (ENGL764)	15
SHAKESPEARE & CO (ENGL751)	15
EDITING THE EARLY MODERN (ENGL752)	15
THE MODERN (ENGL770)	15
LITERATURE AND CRISIS (ENGL771)	15

Optional modules	Credits
GENRE DEFINITIONS (ENGL780)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
DISSERTATION PREPARATION PROJECT (ENGL701)	15

Optional modules	Credits
HAUNTED: SHAKESPEARE AND THE GOTHIC IN RENAISSANCE AND EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY LITERATURE (ENGL774)	15
LITERATURE, SLAVERY AND EMPIRE (ENGL750)	15
YORE VICTORIANS (ENGL760)	15
READING VICTORIANS (ENGL762)	15
THE CONTEMPORARY (ENGL772)	15
THE BODY (ENGL773)	15
FICTIONS OF TECHNOLOGY (ENGL782)	15

Optional modules

Credits

BODIES IN SPACE (ENGL783)

15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

You will continue to work on and complete your dissertation over the summer.

Modules

Compulsory modules

Credits

DISSERTATION (ENGL702)

60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Teaching on the MA in English Literature is delivered through a combination of seminars and tutorials held on campus. Depending on which module options you choose, there may be lectures and separate seminar sessions scheduled, but all classes will take place on campus in person. Class sizes for master's programmes in the Department of English tend to be small, and a typical class in English will include between eight to ten students.

How you're assessed

On the English MA you will be assessed by a combination of formative and summative coursework. This will take a number of different forms, including essays, essay plans, research proposals, and a dissertation. In addition, students will be assessed by

presentations in certain modules. Other assessment formats may apply also depending on the options modules taken.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

The MA in English Literature provides students with rigorous academic training in the broad interdisciplinary field of literary history, theory and culture.

The professional skills that students will develop upon completion of the programme will prepare them well for a wide range of potential employment areas.

Our English degree programmes are valued by employers who recognise the skills our students develop, including teamwork, project design, critical thinking, proficiency in text analysis and communication and presentation skills.

The MA is particularly suitable for graduates looking to pursue careers in:

- The arts
- Culture, creative and heritage sectors
- Journalism
- Copywriting
- Management in arts and culture organisations
- Teaching.

If you wish to continue your academic studies, you will find a supportive and nurturing research environment that prepares you well for doctoral-level research activities. Career pathways that follow this route include employment in higher education (teaching and/or research), or teaching at secondary and further education levels.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £12,500

Part-time place, per year – £6,250

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £28,000

Part-time place, per year – £14,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should preferably be in English or a joint/combined degree with English as a significant component. Other Arts/Humanities subjects may also be considered.

Applicants will be asked to submit a sample of written work (e.g. an essay from your undergraduate studies) as part of the application process. You will be contacted in regard to this once you have submitted your application.

International qualifications

[Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.](#)

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, a Pre-Master's can help you gain a place. This specialist preparation course for postgraduate study is offered on campus at the [University of Liverpool International College](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. Although there's no direct Pre-Master's route to this MA, completing a Pre-Master's pathway can guarantee you a place on many other postgraduate courses at The University of Liverpool.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 105.

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) – 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards – 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with writing at 5.5 and no component below 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component at 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0, for further details.

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